Volunteers trailblaze in sustainability

Bridget Veltri
MUSTANG DAILY

Volunteers will get their hands dirty in the name of sustainability at the Johnson Ranch open space this Saturday.

Organizations including the San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department, Ranger Service Division and the Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers will work to construct sustainably-designed hiking, biking and horse-riding trails for Johnson Ranch, the city’s newest open space.

Eventually, Johnson Ranch will have 3 to 3 1/2 miles of multi-use trails and ultimately connect the property to the Irish Hills, another city open space, said Doug Cascaden, supervising park ranger for the City of San Luis Obispo.

“For open space to be available to the public, it has to have trails otherwise there is nowhere for people to go,” he said.

“If everything goes right, these trails will hook up with the Irish Hills Nature Reserve,” Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers’ public relations and former Cal Poly grad and alumna Frank Zika said. “It expands the opportunities for people to have a nature experience.”

Saturday’s trail work day will begin at 9 a.m. Cascaden said that there is more than a mile and a half of trail that is “flagged” and ready to be built.

CCMB will supply all the work tools needed and have several crew leaders supervising and instructing volunteers on techniques of safe trail building.

“I hope to see a lot of happy trail builders,” Zika said. “You move a lot of dirt, but it is in a very particular way, the design and installation are very sensitive to things like soil type, the contour of the land, vegetation types and erosion problems.”

Zika explained what it means for a trail to be sustainable.

“These trails are designed and will be installed to be sustainable, that means that if properly done, these trails will require little to no maintenance and will be there for our children’s children,” he said. “They are heritage trails that they are building and that is why there is so much care going into them.”

see Trail, page 2

FORUM looks to progress campus attitudes on diversity

Emilie Egger
MUSTANG DAILY

“This is about us,” said university president Warren Baker, urging the Cal Poly community to focus on the future of campus diversity and security during a forum Wednesday night sparked by the controversial incident at the Cal Poly crop house.

Approximately 300 students and community members attended the Campus Community Meeting on Diversity and Inclusion in the Performing Arts Center.

The meeting, which was hosted and moderated by Associated Students, Inc. president Angela Kramer, gave students and community members the opportunity to ask campus administrators questions about the crop house incident.

The forum was organized into sections: a question and answer session, where audience members could ask the panel a question, and an open forum, which featured a panel consisting of deans or assistant deans from each of the university’s seven colleges as well as the vice president of student affairs Cornell Morton, Baker and Kramer.

Baker stressed the need to focus on moving on the future of the campus instead of dwelling on the negatives. He explained how the university will use the incident to change the culture of diversity on campus.

“We as a community were outraged and saddened by what happened on our campus,” he said.

“We are all here this evening because we want to affect some change,” adding that he considered the crop house incident “more than an isolated incident; (and a) reflection of a larger problem.”

At times tear-eyed, Baker drew parallels he thought the incident had with the events of the Civil Rights Movements in the 1960s.

“When I heard about what happened on this campus took me back 40 years,” he said.

Kramer, who opened the event, emphasized the importance of using one’s personal college experience to positively impact the campus.

The audience asked a variety of questions. Some wondered whether the incident constituted hate speech and why it is protected. Others wanted to know what punitive actions were taken against the students involved and what actions the university is taking or will take to ensure a safe and diverse campus.

During the open forum portion, some student expressed their outrage over the incident, while others encouraged the university community to move on.

Sandi Ogren, the university vice president for advancement, explained why the acts cannot be classified as hate speech.

“We cannot take punitive action because we do not like the words people say,” she said. “Issues about protecting the First Amendment never arise unless someone is offended.”

She added that the university considers the noose in the incident to be protected speech.

“While the forum was called to address the crop house incident, the panel expressed an overwhelming desire to move past the incident and look to improve the campus climate for the future.

Still, many questions from the audience asked the panel to comment on the status of the investigation, what more is being done, and what punitive actions were taken against the students involved.

“I think the main request that was made to us is ‘Can you tell me the impact on our campus?’” Kramer said.

see Forum, page 2

Budget deficit hits record; jobless claims surge

Martin Cruitsinger
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The nation’s financial picture grew darker Thursday, a day marked by breathtaking numbers: a quarterly-trillion-dollar budget deficit for a single month and projections of up to $1 trillion for a year, a half-million new applications for unemployment benefits and a 900-point swing on Wall Street.

There was some good news, with the stock market rallying from near its lows for the year to its third-biggest point gain ever.

But analysts predicted that the steep drumbeat of gloomy statistics would only get worse in coming months as the country endures what could be the worst downturn since the severe 1981-82 recession.

The initial counts of the government’s economic bailout efforts sent the U.S. budget deficit for October soaring to a record $237.2 billion, putting it on track to reach the once-unfathomable sum of $1 trillion for the year.

“And as bad as these numbers are, they may look good a year from now because things are going to get much worse,” said Sung Won Sohn, an economist at the Smith School of Business at California State University.

In more grim economic news released Thursday, the number of newly laid-off workers applying for jobless benefits last week hit the highest level since the period right after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

As the economy weakens, the government’s fiscal health was projected to deteriorate, too, with layoffs cutting into tax revenues and forcing higher payouts for programs such as unemployment benefits and food stamps.

Unemployment, which jumped to a 14-year high of 6.5 percent in October, is now projected to climb above 8 percent. Sohn said that will further crimp government tax revenues, making it even harder for Washington to pay the deficits.

see Economy, page 2

an home sits vacant in Mountain House, Calif., Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008. About 90 percent of the homeowners who live in Mountain House, once billed as "The Town of Tomorrow," owe up to 135 percent more on their houses than the properties are worth.

LAUREN RABAINO
MUSTANG DAILY

see Forum, page 2
I don't think punitive actions should be taken. My thoughts are that punishing them only creates more hostility.

—Angela Kramer
AM President

Economy
continued from page 1

revenues, which were down 7.5 percent in October from a year ago.

The stream of negative news initially sent Wall Street down sharply, with the Dow Jones industrials briefly trading below 8,000. The markets rebounded with a flurry, though, and closed up almost 533 — the third-largest point gain on record, following the 892-point rise on Oct. 28 and the 936-point surge on Oct. 13.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. reported profits up 10 percent for the third quarter as the company's renewed focus on low prices attracted financially squeezed shoppers. But the country's biggest retailer trimmed its outlook because of the troubled global economy.

The Treasury Department said the $237.2 billion deficit for October, the highest ever for a single month, reflected the $115 billion spent last month to purchase stock in eight of the country's biggest banks, the opening phase in the $700 billion rescue of the financial system passed by Congress on Oct. 3.

It was far bigger than analysts expected, more than four times larger than the October 2007 deficit of $56.8 billion, and more than half the total for all of last year.

The potential $1 trillion deficit reflected not only the massive expenditures from the rescue effort but also an expected second stimulus program and the effect of a steep recession.

The Labor Department reported that the number of new applications for jobless benefits jumped by 32,000 to 316,000 last week. That nearly matched the $317,000 claims reported seven years ago, and it is only the second time since 1992 that claims have topped 300,000.

On Capitol Hill, some of the largest U.S. banks sharing in the $700 billion government bailout tried to assure lawmakers they are using the money to make more loans and help financially strapped homeowners avoid foreclosure.

Executives from JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs Inc., Bank of America and Wells Fargo & Co. told the Senate Banking Committee that none of the $85 billion they have received collectively from the government is being used to pay salaries or bonuses.

Congressional Democrats pushed forward a package to pump $25 billion in emergency loans into U.S. automakers, but Democratic Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut said the package lacked the support to pass.

"I don't know of a single Republican who's willing to support" the idea, said Dodd, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. He personally backed the proposal but cautioned against "bringing up a proposition that might fail."

Dodd appeared to suggest that Congress wait until President-elect Barack Obama is sworn in on Jan. 20 to provide further help to the carmakers.

In the House, five prominent hedge fund managers told lawmakers they support a central exchange to open the murky world of some complex investments partly blamed for the global financial crisis. But they offered differing views on the need for stricter regulations of hedge funds themselves.

A third economic report showed that the U.S. slowdown was also having an effect on trade, with the overall trade imbalance falling by a bigger-than-expected 4.4 percent in September to $36.5 billion, the smallest deficit in 11 months.

Imports plunged by a record amount, reflecting slumping global demand for oil and other foreign products such as cars, which declined to the smallest total in more than four years.

The report showed that the weakness in the U.S. was beginning to spread overseas, depressing U.S. exports, which also fell by a record amount in September.

Trail
continued from page 1

into making them," he said.

Carrizales, along with the city's natural resource manager and the CCCMB designed the trails. "The art and science of trail design is trying to show off the property while protecting its natural resources," he said. "We try to lay the trail out so that they will be sustainable and easy to maintain."

Zika said that CCCMB has been building trails for 20 years. "We are not trying to bust out these trails in quickly as we can to get the park open, we are going to take our time and build them right the first time," he said.

The city has more work days scheduled throughout next year to complete the trail system at Johnson Ranch.

The Johnson Ranch open space is located on South Higuera Road in San Luis Obispo.
State Briefs

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — A lesbian mother in Fresno says she was forced to resign from her position as president of the parent-teacher association at her son's Catholic school after she spoke out against banning gay marriage.

Robin McGehee, who enrolled her son Sebastian at St. Helena Catholic School, says she went to a vigil for the "No on Proposition 8" campaign last Thursday. After that, a priest from the Diocese of Fresno told her to step down because she had gone against church teachings.

The PTA's vice president, Tiffany Rodriguez, confirmed that McGehee was removed. Rodriguez herself resigned in protest of her removal.

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — A brush fire is burning in the hills above Santa Barbara and Montecito, forcing some evacuations in the Cold Springs area. KEYT-TV reports the fire has burned 3 to 5 acres. It was reported at about 5:49 p.m. Thursday. A Santa Barbara fire dispatcher says an unknown number of evacuations have been ordered.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — People across Southern California on Thursday looked like they had stepped out of a disaster movie. Children ducked under their desks. Victims with fake blood lay on the ground. First responders sprang into action to treat the "wounded." The controlled chaos was all part of a mock "Big One" — an earthquake drill billed as the largest in U.S. history and aimed at testing the preparedness of governments, emergency responders and residents.

At 10 a.m., a cast of millions dropped to the ground, covered their heads and held onto furniture. Local television stations interrupted their regular programming to announce the drill and covered it as they would a major earthquake, though with continual reminders that the emergency was staged.

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday appointed a University of Southern California English professor and author as California's next poet laureate.

Carol Muske-Dukes founded the school's graduate program in literature and creative writing. She has written seven books of poetry, four novels and two collections of essays. Her most recent work, "Sparetime," was a National Book Award finalist.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Federal, state and local authorities arrested 18 people during a Thursday morning gang raid in the San Francisco Bay area, including a man out on parole whom Attorney General Jerry Brown dubbed as a "shot caller."

Approximately 200 agents served more than 40 search and arrest warrants Thursday across Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin and Sacramento counties as part of a 10-month gang enforcement initiative called "Operation Trident."

WORD ON THE STREET

"Are you excited for the new Bond movie?"

"Yeah, it looks like it is going to be good. The last one was great and I am hoping that this one is going to be better."

-Samantha Bowen
modern language and literature

"I haven't even thought about it. I guess so, I liked the last movie."

-Erin Frier
math alumnus and teaching credential program

"I'm really excited for it. I'm excited to see Daniel Craig without his shirt on."

-Olivia Sitton
biology sophomore

"Uhh yeah! Who doesn't want to be like James Bond?"

-Nelson Monterroso
computer engineering senior

SC preist: No communion for Obama supporters

Meg Kinnard
(AP)

A South Carolina Roman Catholic priest has told his parishioners that they should refrain from receiving Holy Communion if they voted for Barack Obama because the Democratic president-elect supports abortion, and supporting him "constitutes material cooperation with intrinsic evil."

The Rev. Jay Scott Newman said in a letter distributed Sunday to parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Greenville that they are putting their souls at risk if they take Holy Communion before doing penance for their vote.

"Our nation has chosen for its chief executive the most radical pro-abortion politician ever to serve in the United States Senate or to run for president," Newman wrote, referring to Obama by his full name.

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Wednesday, November 12, 2008

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Meg Kinnard
AP STATE 06/10/08

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Reprint Policy

www.mustangdaily.net
Priest continued from page 3

name, including his middle name of Hussein.

"Voting for a pro-abortion politician when a plausible pro-
life alternative exists constitutes material cooperation with intrin-
sect evil, and those Catholics who do so place themselves outside of
the full communion of Christ's Church and under the judgment
of divine law. Persons in this condition should not receive Holy
Communion until and unless they are reconciled to God in the
Sacrament of Penance, lest they eat and drink their own condem-
nation."

During the 2008 presidential campaign, many bishops spoke
out on abortion more boldly than four years earlier, telling Catholic
politicians and voters that the is-

sue should be the most important
consideration in setting policy
and deciding which candidate to
back. A few church leaders said
parishioners risked their immortal
soul by voting for candidates who
support abortion rights.

Each bishop sets policy in his
own diocese. In their annual fall
meeting, the nation's Catholic
bishops vowed Tuesday to force-
fully confront the Obama adm in-
eration over its support for abor-
tion rights.

First photos of planets
outside solar system

Seth Borenstein
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Earth seems to have its first fuzzy
photos of alien planets outside our
solar system, images captured by
two teams of astronomers.
The pictures show four likely
planets that appear as specks of
white, nearly indecipherable except
for the most eagle-eyed experts. All
are millions of miles away — three
of them orbiting the same star, and
the fourth circling a different star.

None of the four giant gaseous
planets are remotely habitable or
remotely like Earth. But they raise
the possibility of others more hos-
pitable.

It's only a matter of time before
"we get a dot that's blue and Earth-
like," said astronomer Bruce Mac-
intosh of the Lawrence Livermore
National Lab. He led one of the two
teams of photographers.

"It is a step on that road to un-
derstand if there are other planets
like Earth and potentially life out
there," he said.

Macintosh's team used two
ground-based telescopes, while the
second team relied on photos from
the 18-year-old Hubble Space Tele-
scope to gather images of the exo-
planets — planets that don't circle
our sun. The research from both
teams was published in Thursday's
online edition of the journal Sci-
ence.

In the past 13 years, scientists have
discovered more than 300 planets
outside our solar system, but they have
done so indirectly, by measur-
ing changes in gravity, speed or light
around stars.

NASA's space sciences chief Ed
Weiler said the actual photos are im-
portant. He compared it to a hunt
for elusive elephants: "For years
we've been hearing the elephants,
finding the tracks, seeing the trees
knocked down by them, but we've
never been able to snap a picture.
Now we have a picture."

In a news conference Thursday,
Weiler said this fulfills the last of
the major goals that NASA had for the
Hubble telescope before it launched in
1990: "This is an 18½-year
dream come true."

There are disputes about wheth-
er these are the first exoplanet pho-
tos. Others have made earlier claims,
but those pictures haven't been con-
formed as planets or universally ac-
cepted yet.
Absurdity gone haywire

The Bald Soprano opens this weekend

Samantha MacConnell
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly students acting in the absurd piece "The Bald Soprano" will not only discuss human communication, the lack thereof and what could be done to improve it, they will also share real stories about their lives, which will help students relate to them and the show. The Bald Soprano, presented by Cal Poly theatre and dance department, will premiere tonight at Spanos Theatre at 8 p.m.

"I picked this play knowing I wanted to integrate the stories of the students into the play," said director Al Schnupp. "The Bald Soprano," a world-renowned play by Eugene Ionesco, was originally written in French. Rather than following a specific storyline, the play is a collage of ideas and words that will try to remind audiences of contemporary American culture.

The play features six characters: the Smiths, a traditional London theatre and dance department; the Martins, another couple; Mary the maid and the Cal Poly chief. While they experience miscommunication, they share intimate stories about themselves to the audience that have shaped their attitudes and essentially made them who they are.

"We have this juxtaposition of a theatrical world and the real world," said Thomas Bernard, assistant professor of costume design in Cal Poly theatre and dance department. "My favorite thing is the contrast," added Schnupp. "It is fun to go back and forth between the two worlds the heartfelt stories and then the bizarre craziness of the characters."

The play brings all of the characters together in an environment of pure absurdity where they hold meaningless conversations devoid of logic. Cal Poly's version of the play also shows the characters embracing contemporary American culture and taking part in electronic gadgets, celebrity and the media's sensationalism.

"It's something that our students don't have many opportunities to experience and I think Al [Schnupp] has done some pretty unique things with the show that really make it more accessible to our students," said Tim Dugen, chair of the theatre and dance department. "It's really kind of a unique interactive piece the way they have approached it."

The set is equipped with a network of cubicles that both protect and shield the characters, a kind of storm o f strange props and distinctive attires that sheds symbols like a martini glass.

"I loved working on the costumes and the set," said Bernard, who designed each costume for "The Bald Soprano," which is his first production at Cal Poly. "I picked this play knowing I wanted to integrate the stories of the students into the play." Bernard's costume for each character covered in wires has a MySpace sign on it, along with other symbols like a martini glass.

"One female character has her phone number on her leg to represent the extremes society will go to for advertising and how effective advertising can be. For example, one character covered in wires has a MySpace page on his back and his photo is on the front of his costume. "I loved working on the costumes so much," said Bernard. "I had a great director who brought collaboration to the project. I think (the piece is) a tribute to working together and coming together on an idea."

"The Bald Soprano" will run Nov. 13-15 and Nov. 20-22. Tickets are $10 for students.
LETTERS

Diversity is more than just race

Dictionary.com states that diversity is "the state or fact of being diverse; difference; unlikeliness." By saying Cal Poly is not a diverse campus because we are 64.7 percent white is an oversimplification.

Diversity is more than just skin color. It is different religions, backgrounds, political parties, tastes and views, and even where you grew up. There is more to diversity than just having a balance of ethnicities. Ethnicity is just one part of a multi-faceted idea called diversity. If all the ethnicities were balanced, but everyone coming to Cal Poly had the same views on all of the issues facing our world, we wouldn't be a very diverse campus would we?

Coming to college is not only to be surrounded by different ethnicities, it is to broaden your views of the world and become educated.

This happens by seeing different peoples' beliefs and opinions, not only different skin colors.

Having a diverse campus challenges your beliefs and thought processes. It allows you to change them, or form new beliefs.

Iron sharpens iron, and I want people with diverse beliefs and opinions surrounding me on the campus, not just racial diversity. The best way to do that is to bring in the best and the brightest from all over the world and use us all in one place so we can see many of the different beliefs and ideas, not changing enrollment to get the race numbers, "better."

Brenton Haven

Engineering management student

Diversity story needed different headline

I am glad you wrote an article about the lack of racial diversity upon Cal Poly's campus. I was very disappointed, however, when I saw the name of your piece. The fact that the majority of Cal Poly's campus is Caucasian, however, calling Cal Poly a "white campus" only furthers the segregation from which this campus suffers. Cal Poly is not a "white campus," and hopefully it stays that way. I hope that next time you wish to write an article about the diversity of a campus, the editors will be more careful with your words so as not to sound so biased.

Susie Condon

Kinesiology sophomore

Conservative columnists do not get it

I'd like to know how a nose next to a Confedrate flag "contributes to the marketplace of ideas" or has potential to help develop a "positive" discussion. As Ian Nachrember claims. Such a display is far more vile than the taunts that have been directed at him, which he would no doubt dismiss as unproductive of positive discussion.

Ian, a nose is a symbol of death, and in the context of the Confederate flag, of arbitrary death dealt to hundreds of African-American innocents. What is the "differing point of view" being expressed by such a display, Ian?

I wish you had been a little more specific about that. With your column, you are living up to the stereotype of the conservative who just doesn't get it. I can only hope that your fellow conservatives have learned more from this incident than you have.

Johanna Rubba

English associate professor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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For Sale
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Boys & Girls by Justin Bonus and Andrew Fenneman

Puzzle by Kyle Wahrman

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Across
1 Beach nos.
5 Score of a record 198 goals
9 Certain dry cell, briefly
14 Bucket of bolts
15 Target of a 1989 E.P.A. investigation
16 Language related to Winnebago
28 Emphatic response during a drill
32 RV tv bug figure
33 Percent of what should have been said
34 2008 French Open champion
36 Harass investigation
37 Dealmaker’s delight
39 Club
40 Rope fiber source
42 Beneficial thing to release
43 Gator rival
44 Real

Down
1 Three-time MVP of the N.B.A. finals, familiarly
2 Indiana town where Cole Porter was born and buried
3 TV station?
4 Lab subject
5 Author, say
6 Some singers
7 School concerned with classes?
8 Harold, perhaps
9 Macho credo
10 TV station
11 Stick together
12 Forever
13 Overseas article

16 Language
17 School
20 Makeshift Amateurs
26 Spelunking aids
28 Emphatic response during a drill
30 They don’t take many trips
50 Needs a target of a 1989 E.P.A. investigation
52 Way up
55 ______ lepton
57 Childish virtue
58 Many a team booster
59 Tooth site
60 Up
61 Certified letters?
62 "Pardon the interruption" 58

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With a win, Mustangs are likely in the run, with an allowance of just 74.9 yards per game. "They expect that the ball's not going to move," Ellerson said.

Last week, the Mustangs shuffled their line after sophomore center Jason Cox and senior left guard Stephen Field left the prior week's game with sprained left knees. Cox isn't expected to play Saturday but Field is, Ellerson said.

After likely being eliminated from playoff contention, the Aggies are in something of a recovery mode themselves.

"What happened this last week was a great wake-up call for our kids," Aggies head coach Bob Biggs said. "We fully expect them to play with a lot more intensity this week." UC Davis has had its scout team mimicking Cal Poly's triple option for two weeks, Biggs said.

But Cal Poly's speed to the perimeter can play havoc with the d-linemen from making too much contact," Mustangs senior running back Ryan Mole said. "It's almost impossible to stop if we follow our assignments right.

"Aggies sophomore quarterback Greg Denham, meanwhile, is fifth in the FCS in passing yards per game, at 301.3. After allowing five first-half touchdowns to Southern Utah on Oct. 25, the Mustangs have surrendered just 20 points over the last 10 quarters. ""It was night-and-day," Cal Poly senior defensive end Sean Lawton said. "They were trying to play a complete game, find an identity and make sure we stayed with our assignments." The thought of the postseason is enticing, but shouldn't be a distraction, Lawton said. "We just try to stay grounded," he explained. "Obviously, we know the importance, but none of that's going to help us on the field. The playoff selections are out of our hands, but if we win this weekend, we'll be in a good situation."

Mole took it a step further. "We have to win this game to make the playoffs," Mole said. "So for us, the playoffs are already starting."